

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel without prejudice Claims 19, 20, 47 and 48 and add the following claims:

Claim 49. A fence support in accordance with Claim 18, wherein said lengths of material to be supported are electrified.

Claim 50. A fence support in accordance with Claim 18, wherein said sleeve for fitting over said support member is composed of an insulating material.

Claim 51. A method of constructing a fence post for an electrified fence which comprises rigidly installing a fence post in a vertical disposition at a site for an electrified fence, frictionally forcing a sleeve over substantially the entire exposed surface of said post, said sleeve having an external vertical web which has an opening for receiving an electrified wire, said sleeve being comprised of a dielectric material at least where it supports said electrified wire, and providing a cap which is separate from said sleeve to cover the top of said post.

Claim 52. A structure for an electrified fence which comprises a sleeve that receives and substantially surrounds the entire exposed surface of a post which extends vertically from the underlying surface at the site of the electrified fence, the interior of said sleeve comprising friction means for frictionally and forcibly receiving the post, said sleeve including an exterior web which is disposed parallel to the post with said sleeve installed over said post, said web having an opening for receiving an electrified wire of the fence, said sleeve being composed of dielectric material at least where it receives the electrified wire, and a cap which is separate from said sleeve covering the top of the post with said sleeve is installed over the post.

Claim 53. A fence support in accordance with Claim 18, wherein said sleeve is sufficiently long for fitting over substantially the entire exposed surface of said support member.